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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

6 February 1960

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

NO USSR: New data released by the USSR on its 1959 census will affect some of our estimates on the composition of the Soviet population. Fewer people will enter working- and military-age groups during 1959-65 than we had estimated. The number of people now in the working-age bracket (16-59) is some 2,000,000 less than had been thought, and, of the total population in this age group (125,600,000), a higher percentage is already working. Opportunities to expand the labor force are thus more limited than previously estimated. Khrushchev's program to cut armed forces strength was probably based in part on a desire to enlarge the labor force.

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OK USSR - China - East Europe: In view of the top-level participation in the "agricultural conference" held in Moscow on 2-3 February, it is probable that the problems discussed went beyond the routine agricultural matters dealt with in the 4 February communiqué. The absence of Chinese Communist representatives suggests that the Chinese feared a discussion of collectivization would involve the commune problem and would be critical of their methods.

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POPULATION OF THE USSR **15 JANUARY 1959**

(MILLION PERSONS)

AGE GROUP	USSR CENSUS DATA	PREVIOUS US ESTIMATES
0-9	46.4	46.1
10-15	17.1	17.9
16-19	14.7	16.0
20-59	110.9	111.7
60 & OVER	19.7	17.1
TOTAL	208.8	208.8
ABLE BODIED AGES *	119.8	122.2

* Men, 16-59; women, 16-54.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

N/D Sudan: Western diplomats in Khartoum feel that the next few weeks will be crucial in determining the Sudanese Government's alignment between East and West. Sudanese officials, who had expected that the agreement they reached on 8 November with the UAR on sharing the Nile waters would quickly lead to a World Bank loan covering much of the cost of their \$100,000,000 Roseires Dam project, have become convinced that the bank is "stalling." They are also perturbed about limitations of the US aid program, especially in view of the recent large Soviet loans to the UAR and Ethiopia. Late last week the Sudanese foreign minister told the French ambassador that he intended to apply to the USSR for aid.

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III. THE WEST

OK France: De Gaulle's ouster of Deputy Premier Jacques Soustelle and other changes indicate De Gaulle's determination to implement vigorously his self-determination policy for Algeria. Far-reaching administrative and possibly territorial reorganization of Algeria now is probably under consideration. Soustelle is likely to retain the support of some elements of the Union for the New Republic which he founded. He has announced that he will continue working for the "cause of French Algeria." The appointment of the former French

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West Africa high commissioner general, Pierre Messmer, to replace Pierre Guillaumat as minister of armed forces provides De Gaulle with a vigorous personality to carry out the expected shake-up in the army. [REDACTED]

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OK
Cuba-USSR: Fidel Castro will probably accept Mikoyan's public invitation to visit Moscow "in the near future." Resumption of diplomatic relations with the USSR seems almost certain. Mikoyan's delegation is heavily weighted with trade specialists, and Cuba is expected to respond favorably to any new Soviet economic overtures. [REDACTED]

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NO
Cuba-UN: Cuba has launched its candidacy for one of the two Latin American seats in the UN Security Council, apparently without consulting the Latin American caucus where such candidacies are usually agreed upon before public announcement. Argentina will vacate its seat at the end of this year. Cuba may siphon off Communist and some neutral support in the UN from any candidate agreed upon by the Latin American caucus. However, the wariness with which many UN members regard the Castro regime makes Cuba's election unlikely. [REDACTED]

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Bloc Agricultural Conference in Moscow

In view of the top-level participation in the agricultural conference held in Moscow on 2-3 February, it seems likely that the problems discussed went beyond the routine production and technical issues reported. The subject matter covered by the communiqué hardly warrants attendance by every Eastern European first secretary and premier, some of whom left their own countries in the midst of meetings of their own.

A reference in the communiqué to the accomplishments of the European countries in "the socialist reorganization of the countryside" may be a clue to the absence of the Chinese. This topic, if discussed at length, could hardly fail to involve the communes. Absence of the Chinese at such a discussion would underline their intention to maintain their own position on this problem. The failure of the communiqué to explain the necessity of such high-level participation implies that Khrushchev wishes to give no more publicity than is necessary to a serious difference of view within the bloc.

The absence of Chinese Communist representatives was made conspicuous by the presence of representatives from North Korea and Outer Mongolia "at their own request." The Chinese did participate in two CEMA technical conferences held during the same period, and in the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact on 4 February.

The decision to call a meeting of party representatives rather than to use the forum of the Soviet bloc's Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA)--whose meetings are normally attended by Chinese observers--suggests that the agricultural "experiences" discussed were more in the ideological than in the technical field.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

III. THE WEST

De Gaulle's Cabinet Changes Signal Extensive Shake-up

De Gaulle's determination to push his policy of self-determination for Algeria is indicated by his ouster of Deputy Premier Jacques Soustelle and other 5 January ministerial changes which emphasize the increasingly "technical" rather than political character of the cabinet. Although Premier Debré reportedly opposed the use of force against the European settler insurgents last week, De Gaulle may have reasoned that replacing him at present would create too many difficulties at a time when he wants to push his purge of those who oppose his policies, particularly since the special decree power granted the government would have to be renewed if a new premier took over. Two other opponents to the use of force--Information Minister Frey and Armed Forces Minister Guillaumat--who are technicians rather than political figures, were relegated to positions under Debré.

Pierre Messmer, the former French West Africa high commissioner general, who replaces Guillaumat, is a career civil servant whose vigorous personality has probably recommended him to De Gaulle as the man to carry out the expected shake-up of the army. Messmer's combination of toughness with a liberal record in the evolution of the French Community is certain to alarm the rightists.

Soustelle's departure formalizes a long-existing split in the "Gaullist" Union for the New Republic (UNR) which he helped to found. His immediate announcement following his ouster that he intends to continue working for "the cause of French Algeria" suggests he will fight to retain the support of many UNR deputies at odds with the "loyal" elements who seized control of the party machinery at the annual congress last December. Soustelle could serve as a dangerous focal point of opposition to De Gaulle, in cooperation with the die-hard members of the Independent party who demonstrated their sympathies with the European settlers in Algeria.

In addition to the purge of civil and military hierarchies which is now under way, De Gaulle also apparently intends to

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use the special decree powers to make some far-reaching changes in Algeria. According to the American Embassy in Paris, several parliamentary leaders have quoted De Gaulle as indicating on 3 February that preparations must be made for the eventuality of a federated state of Algeria. De Gaulle reportedly suggested that the present departmental divisions of Algeria needed revision, possibly along ethnic lines.

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